(b) if so, the reasons for which Central Warehousing Corporation is granting only 9 holidays in a year since 1986?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

b)) Chowkidars are entitled to only 6 holidays in a year in addition to the 3 National holidays. All Regional Offices of the Corporation were informed of the entitlement in February, 1973. It, however, came to the notice of the Head Office of the Corporation in 1986 that the chowkidars working in the Calcutta region were inadvertently being allowed 16 gazetted holidays. The Regional Office, Calcutta was, thereofore, advised to grant only 9 holidays to the Chowkidars. Chowkidars in all the other regions were being granted 9 holidays in a year.

Scarcity of milk

478. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Times of India of the 21st February, 1990 wherein it has been stated that milk is scarce in rural areas and when available it is @ Rs. 10/- litre, despite recent claims of milk flood; and

(b) whether Government propose to scrutinise the claims by Operation flood authorities and revamp the NDDB and its policies towards imports of milk products, commercial and gifts and exports of cattle feed around the year?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a)The Government are aware of the letter published in the Times of India dated 21st February, 1990 in this regard.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

Issue of legality of reservations for SC/ST

479. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently issued notices to the Union Government on the issue of legality of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in education institutions and for employment;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any steps/decisions on the notice of the Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The notice of writ petition filed by one Shri Ujjal Singh has been received from the Supreme Court by Government. Due action is being taken to defend Government interests.

Reserve pool of skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil

480. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under O.F. II a reserve pool of skimmed Milk Powder and Butter oil was to be created and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this pool could not be created during the period when there was a glut of milk production, every year as is done in western countries;

(c) whether it is a fact that the policies of NDDB are aimed only at ensuring profits for Amul;

(d) whether it is also a fact that heavy drying and tatrapak facilities and other product manufacturing have been created only in Gujarat so far at the expences of other States; and

(e) if so, whether Government would propose to abolish NDDB?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) In order to even out the imbalance in the availability of liquid milk due to regional and seasonal variations and to stabilise the prices of milk products during Operation Flood-II, it was decided to create a pooled buffer stock of conserved Dairy Commodities from the gifts from the European Economic Community and the indigenously produced commodities. This buffer stock is to be utilised mainly for the recombination purposes by the metro dairies of Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras to meet the liquid milk market in the urban demand centres.

(b) The creation of pooled buffer stock of conserved dairy commodities is one of the primary objectives of Operation Flood, and is done during periods of increased milk procurement through production and procurement of conserved commodities.

(c) No, Sir. The objectives are towards creating viable infrastructure for procurement, processing, marketing etc. to be owned and operated by the member producers of the Cooperatives. Currently there are 174 milksheds/unions funded under Operation Flood.

(d) No, Sir. The processing capacities are created on the basis of the projected milk procurement in the milksheds and the ability of the Unions/Federations to operate the procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products as financially viable activities. Out of the total drying capacity in the country under Operation Flood, about one-third is in Gujarat.

(e) Does not arise.

Purchase by Fruit and Vegetable Project of Mother Dairy

481. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the quantities and value of fruits and vegetables purchased under Fruit and Vegetable Project of Mother Dairy during the last three years till date indicating the names of suppliers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that bulk of the purchases were made from and through middlemen and not direct from farmers or their cooperatives;

(c) what had been the losses, if any, under this project suffered either by Mother Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable Project, NDDB or Government during the above period;

(d) what is the investment so far on this project; and

(e) whether Government would ask NDDB to create similar set ups in every town in the country with a population of one lakh and above?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The Fruit and Vegetable Project of Mother Dairy has purchased 51,300 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables for a value of Rs. 12.44 crores during the last three years ending on 31-3-89. As there are over 7000 suppliers, farmers , small farmers every month, it would be difficult to indicate the names of all suppliers.

(b) No, Sir.